1978 Health
Counseling;
Respirators.
Notes of Dennis
H. Markusson
and Barbara Diemer

FY 1/2-U

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION OF DHM & BARB DIEMER WITH HUGH JACKSON
November 2, 1978

1. About the time of the first epidemiological study of Dr. Enterline at Manville (approximately 1960), JM called back some of its retirees and questioned them about quality of working conditions back to the 40's and related those periods of time to major dust control efforts. Did same for Waukegan and possibly Marrero.

2. There existed both a corporate and local safety effort. Plants had to report to headquarters on a regular basis re safety meetings: what was discussed, recommended, etc. These were sent to Fred Lippert, Fred Armstrong and then Jackson, who discontinued reporting practice.

3. The Plant Safety Meetings were held to discuss various safety problems - dust control, safety shoes, respirators, etc. and were held between the foreman and his individual group.

4. Mr. Fred G. Lippert published a book on what he had developed while at JM in the way of forms, policies, etc.

5. Respirators were not mandatory until about the mid-1960's. From about 1941-1947, the respirators used were manufactured by Mine Safety Appliances. Later respirators were adopted after research into most effective of the types listed as approved.

6. In 1940-41, Mr. Jackson remembers in Waukegan that respirators were recommended and available and that dust controls were in effect in the form of air suction devices on many machines which fed into dust collection houses or rooms. There was also a wet process in the Transite production.

7. Travelers did some dust sampling at Waukegan in 1941-47. Probably none done by JM at that time, but there were later samplings done by Joe Goldfield's Engineering group.

8. JM started in 1937 a policy re annual physical exams for all employees. In 1947, medical service arrangements existed at all locations. Mr. Jackson will look in their files for old policies.

9. Mr. Jackson made plant visits from 1947-1960 to review the status of the safety program, dust conditions, safety conditions, status of medical exams.

10. JM subscribed to the National Safety Council publications and services, and forwarded them to the individual plant managers involved in the safety program. He took various safety managers to the periodic National Safety conferences. We also participated in the National Safety Council training courses and those on industrial hygiene which they gave.

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NOTES FROM DISCUSSION OF DUM, BARB D., & CLAUDETTE P. WITH HUGH JACKSON November 3, 1978

1. Pittsburg 1947-1960:

Made about 4-5 trips there, the first about 1947 or 1950. "Miserable" conditions. Involved in insulating cement operation, using manual beaters - all hand done operations - they were trying to get out of the cement business as Pittsburg was a Building Material manufacturer and the cement had no relation to other products and processes. Didn't get rid of that operation for many years. Pittsburg was known as one of the worst plants from a housekeeping standpoint. Jackson consulted with them on improved operations control both on dust and accident prevention. Made comments on lack of dust control.

The plant manager at the time was Brad Kelly, who had "no use" for Headquarters. The plant eventually got out of the cement and shingle business and started Flexboard around the late 50's. Made improvements over the years re housekeeping.

Dr. Wise, Sr. was plant doctor and had physical exam program going. Jackson talked to Wise re program to attempt to find out what practice was. Wise was generally behind in the physicals. They had high turnover at plant. Wise had good repoire with employees who regarded him highly. Wise talked with management on desirability of putting some employees with problems into non-dusty operations. There were no such jobs. Wise informed employees of their physical problems. At that time, they saw mixed pneuroconiosis, as they also dealth with silica dust. Wise read his own x-rays. Jackson not sure when Wise, Jr. began. Jr. recognized need to develop skills of all plant drs. Undertook education program at all plants, Sr. among them. Jackson never recalls telling Wise that he had no obligation to read x-rays. Dr. Smith told all plant drs. to send x-rays to him when they needed help. Smith travelled to various plants and had sessions with various plant drs. Showed sample x-rays with various lung conditions. Smith would have had such a meeting with Wise. Jackson was working with him at time and helped gather sample films and knew he went to Pittsburg, because he went with him.

On one of their trips, Jackson remembers one of the Drs. Wise telling them that he felt he could not be as complete in discussing problems with the employees as he should be because he felt management did not want him to be. Jackson & Smith told Brad what the company policy was and told him it was his responsibility to see that it was carried out. Both Drs. Wise attempted to do an honest job.

Many employees refused transfer to less dusty areas, as those jobs paid less. There were many union battles. Union wanted guaranteed salary no matter where employees worked. JM fought against that.

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2. Original policy found on physical exams - dated 1937 - exams not to be not more than 3 years apart.

3. Metropolitan Life started dust sampling, along with Travelers.

4. Re Saranac Labs

No contract with Saranac. Dr. Gardner did not operate with a contract - no contracts until Skeepers. There was a gentleman's agreement that we would have an opportunity to review publications prior to their publication. No doubt, knowing QAMA personnel over the years, that there might have been some "arm-twisting" done not to publish from time to time. Jackson did not personally know Gardner, who was killed in plane crash in 42 or 43. He did know Bowditch, who was Medical Director after Gardner and Vorwald and Skeepers. The last Vorwald paper was the last report of all the Saranac studies done by Gardner over the years.

5. JMSales prior to 47 sold products other than those manufactured by JMPC.

6. Re Somerset Hospital - JM used because it was a nearby hospital to the Manville operation - mostly for accidents, etc. JM drs. were on the staff there. At that time, industrial medical departments were, in general, "patch-up" type operations.

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